

THE CEREMONIAL CAVE

Bandelier National Monument, Sandoval County, New Mexico

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Southwest District

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

John Gaw Meem, District Officer,  
Camino del Monte Sol, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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## THE CEREMONIAL CAVE

Bandelier National Monument, Sandoval County, New Mexico.

Owner: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southwestern National Monuments, Coolidge, Arizona.

Date of Erection: Late prehistoric times, somewhere between 1200 and 1400 A.D.

Architect: None.

Builder: Pueblo Indians.

Present Condition: Poor; walls of living-rooms entirely destroyed, foundations still in place; kiva twice restored (1910, 1937).

Number of Stories: Living-rooms, none (originally two); kiva, one, (as originally).

Materials of Construction: Foundations of living-rooms, rough field stone with adobe mortar; stone with adobe mortar; floors, adobe; roof, vigas, vigas, brush and earth (originally) rebuilt with similar construction except asphalt roofing felt used under the earth in the reconstruction.

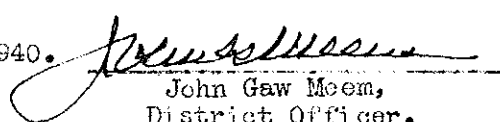
Other Existing Records: Written records, photographs, J. W. Hendron, Jr., report on archaeology of Frijoles Canyon, published by the Southwestern National Monuments Association; also report by Hendron in Southwestern Monuments report for January, 1938, p. p. 70-74; Edgar L. Hewitt, "The Excavation at El Rito de Los Frijoles in 1909," "American Anthropologist," XI, 1909, p. p. 664-666, with ground plans; Bandelier and many other archaeologists have written on this project.

Additional Data: "There is no real justification for calling this cave "Ceremonial"; the people who built and occupied this little settlement presumably selected this almost inaccessible, large cave in the cliff 70 feet above the canyon bottom for purposes of seclusion and defense. There is nothing other than the location to differentiate this sharply from other small Pueblo Indian villages." Erik Reed, Regional Archaeologist, Region III, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Trent Thomas,  
Architect in Charge,  
HABS, Southwest Unit.

Approved October 1st, 1940.



John Gaw Meem,  
District Officer.

TW 10/25/40